

THIS MAN'S LIFE LIKE A NOVEL

SUICIDE OF JAMES VAN PEYMA, OF KANSAS CITY.

ONCE RICH HE DIES POOR

Told Friends Would Kill Himself—
Leaves Note Stating He Had
Passed His Usefulness.

Kansas City, Mo., September 1.—James VanPeyma, once a man of affairs, capital and political power in Kansas City, Kas., killed himself at his home, 2046 North Fifth street, at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Sitting in an easy chair in the library of his home, VanPeyma fired a bullet through his head. The ball entered just behind the right ear, passed through and came out just above the left ear. Death was instantaneous.

VanPeyma had threatened suicide several times during the last year. Monday of this week the police were called to the office of Captain H. H. Sawyer, 35 Wyandotte building, to disarm VanPeyma. When the police arrived, a borrowed revolver fell from the man's hand to the floor and the weapon is still retained by Captain John F. Kelly. VanPeyma had borrowed the weapon with the intention of ending his life. He had complained to his friend, Captain Sawyer, that he had not the money to purchase a new weapon.

No person witnessed the suicide. Mrs. Isabella VanPeyma and children were at home, but the man, broken in finance, spirit and health, chose a time when he might die alone. Last Wednesday night Captain Sawyer had found a note from VanPeyma on his office floor reading: "Captain Sawyer will have general charge of my funeral. Notify him at once."

Captain Sawyer did not take the note seriously, and, tearing it in two, threw it on his reading table. Yesterday he was in excellent spirits when a reporter told him VanPeyma was dead. Then the captain remembered the note and searched it out from papers on his table.

Sawyer and VanPeyma were old, old cronies. "Well, I might as well laugh as cry," the captain said, after recovering from the shock, "for it's the greatest blessing God could have sent the VanPeyma family. It's the same story of a broken fortune, then strong drink—and then death by one's own hand."

More interesting than a bereaved family could possibly relate is the story Captain Sawyer told. For weeks he had refused to touch liquor when his friend VanPeyma was around. Wednesday VanPeyma shook hands with his friend and said: "Goodbye, captain, this is the last time you will see me alive." "That so?" bantered the captain. "Goin' to kill yourself? Well goodbye, Van! Success to you!" Late that night for VanPeyma must have returned in the captain's

rooms, the note reproduced above was found on the floor. A week before VanPeyma had made similar remark and had taken leave of his friend.

"When I came in the next night I found Van in my rooms," said Captain Sawyer. I joked with him and he told me what elaborate plans he had made the night before to end his life."

"I fastened the windows and doors," VanPeyma told Sawyer. "I attached a rubber tube to the gas jet and put the other end under the sheet. Then I got in bed and covered my head with the sheet, prepared to take an everlasting sleep. The last thing I did was to drink a pint of whisky. But, bless you, at 5 o'clock in the morning I awoke feeling better than I had felt for two weeks."

"Van, you fool, why didn't you turn on the gas?" the captain asked in his humorous manner.

VanPeyma had not thought to turn the gas into his tube.

VanPeyma moved from Leavenworth, Kas., to Kansas City, Kas., January 1, 1879. He worked in hardware stores for four years and later became a partner in the Gillette-VanPeyma Hardware and Iron Co., in the West bottoms. It is estimated that VanPeyma made \$200,000 before the beginning of his decline.

When VanPeyma withdrew from the hardware business, he went in for politics entirely, at one time editing a newspaper in the German language in the interest of politics. He was campaign manager for W. H. Craddock when the latter was a candidate for governor of Kansas and managed the Craddock campaign when he was elected mayor of Kansas City, Kansas.

But the money gave out and VanPeyma fought against his desire for drink under the guidance of well meaning friends. Liquor always won in the end. During the last few years he barely was able to keep his large life insurance policies paid up. It has not been five years since the suicide offered \$2,000,000 for the street car franchise in Kansas City, Kansas.

Mrs. VanPeyma believes her husband carried \$30,000 in life insurance, besides a small policy in the A. O. U. W. The policies were not at hand yesterday and the widow does not know the exact amount. She believes the premiums have all been paid. VanPeyma told a friend this week that he would be worth \$30,000 dead and there was no use for him to linger here.

There are seven children in the VanPeyma family. They are Harry, Francis, Theodore, Ethel, Maud, Ella and Gertrude. VanPeyma was born in Lancaster, N. Y., August 24, 1856. He farmed six years near Leavenworth and had lived continuously in Kansas City, Kas., for sixteen years.

Ten Years n Bed.

"For ten years I was confined to my bed with disease of my kidneys," writes J. R. Gray, J. P., of Aekville, Ind. "It was so severe that I could not move part of the time. I consulted the best medical skill available, but could get no relief until Foley's Kidney Cure was recommended to me. It has been a Godsend to me."—Lancet Drug Co.

VanPeyma had carefully prepared the following, which was found near his chair:

"At 20 I was a boy, but a good business man. Man has but few years to accomplish certain results. If you are a precautions youth you will have a premature age. I was at my best at 33—45 I had passed my usefulness. To end my existence some time ago I tried morphine, but it was a failure. I also tried gas several times and one time I thought I had departed from my body, but it was a beautiful dream. I awoke feeling better than ever. In fact, I almost believe the inhalation of natural gas is beneficial, as I made a thorough test of it. Last Sunday night for four hours I had my head wrapped up in a pillow case and a gas tube connection. I mention this for the benefit of science."

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Cement Factory at Ada.

Ardmore, I. T., Aug. 30.—A company from Indiana has made purchase of land at Ada and will put in a Portland cement factory. They claim to have an inexhaustible supply of limestone there that will run ninety per cent cement.

In diseases of women, the misplaced parts are not only replaced but are kept in position because the supports are strengthened. This accounts for the great success of Osteopathy in such cases. Dr. S. M. Pleak may be consulted free in office 315 South Elwood avenue. Phone 565.

HAVE THIRTY CLOWNS

Will Be No Shortage of Clowns With Hagenbeck's Circus.

"Have we clowns with our circus?" echoed Frank R. Tate at the Hotel Robinson last night. "You can just wager we have; thirty of them too. Why a circus without any clowns would not be a circus at all to my notion."

Mr. Tate is a big bluff, hearty Missourian who, with Carl Hagenbeck, John H. Havlin of theatrical fame, and C. Lee Williams, owns the mammoth Carl Hagenbeck circus which will exhibit at Tulsa, Saturday, September 15.

"Yes sir, and our clowns are dandies; some of them just like the kind we used to see years ago," continued Mr. Tate. "In these modern times showmen are beginning to think that circuses don't need clowns. I may be old fashioned and behind the age, even if I do own part of the biggest tented amusement enterprise in the world, but I stick to clowns and I'll lay you a cigar that every father, and every son and daughter, and the majority of the mothers in this city agree with me that a circus must have clowns to be a circus."

"I have never forgotten my earlier days and I never will especially the days that marked the pasting of the circus bills, the days that followed and the big day of the show itself. I always hunted for the pictures of the clowns, I dreamed about them and then when the circus arrived, I always hunted them in the flesh the first thing."

"I had a passion for clowns and circuses in my boyhood days and I guess that's the reason I own part of a circus now. And let me tell you when I see a show, which is not often because I have interests that keep me pretty close in St. Louis, I always laugh at the antics of the 'joys,' as we call the clowns, and when any of them are in danger of being bounced by the general manager, they always let me know and I stand up for them, whether they are in the right or not. I just can't help it."

And then Mr. Tate told his auditors about the thousand and one wonders his big show contains. The famous Hagenbeck circus has been greatly enlarged since last season and its owners now claim that it is the biggest in the country. It is carried on three trains of sixty cars, gives performances in three rings, on two stages and around a wide hippodrome track, carries 1,200 employees, 500 horses, hundreds of rare wild animals, a Hindoo Mela, the Somersault of Death, and spreads tents that covers twelve acres of ground.

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SOUTHWESTERN TEA and Coffee House

Opp. Robinson Hotel New Turner Bldg. Tulsa, Ind. Ter.

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